

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Barton E. Bennett
Filed : 10/22/2003
Title : MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMPOSITE SANDWICH
ELEMENT WITH EMBEDDED ELECTRONICS
Confirmation No. : 5377
Group/Art Unit : 2841
Examiner : Hoa Cao Nguyen
Attorney Docket : OTC0001

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough search and analysis and Notice of Allowability dated October 25, 2007, in which the Examiner allowed claims 1-11, 21-22, and 32-36.

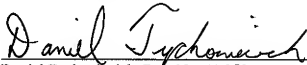
In the Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner noted that the prior art references taken alone or in combination failed to teach or fairly suggest the limitation of a core structure including truss elements having a longitudinal axis extending substantially co-planar with planes defined by facesheet laminates and circuit laminates providing bending resistant to the composite sandwich structure as required in claim 1 in combination with the other limitations. Applicant concurs that this is true; however, Applicant notes that not all of the limitations in claim 1 are required to distinguish the invention from the prior art and that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-11 and 21-22 include

additional novel features. For example, none of the cited prior art discloses or teaches a composite sandwich structure mounted to a larger structural composite structure where the facesheet laminates provide stiffness, strength and support to the structural composite structure as required in claim 21. Nor does the prior art disclose a porous core structure with electronic components mounted therein as required in claim 22.

The Examiner also noted that the cited prior art when taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest a core structure including truss elements with at least one circuit layer attached to the truss elements as required in claim 32 in combination with the other limitations. Applicant notes that not all of the limitations in claim 32 are required to differentiate from the prior art and that there are other novel features in claim 32 and dependent claims 33-36. For example, none of the prior art teaches electronic components mounted to the truss elements as set forth in claim 33. Furthermore, the prior art does not teach the angled structural members set forth as required in claim 34.

Applicant further notes that the claims in the patent issuing from this application will be entitled to the protection provided by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

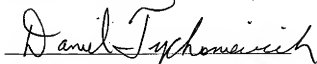
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Tychonievich", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Tychonievich, Reg. No. 41,358
BAKER & DANIELS LLP
202 S. Michigan Street, Suite 1400
South Bend, IN 46601
Telephone: (574) 234-4149
Fax: (574) 239-1900

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a copy of the above and foregoing was served electronically to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, on January 25, 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel Tychonievich", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Tychonievich